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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000489

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COSTA RICA ON UNSYG SUCCESSION

REF: STATE 22833

1. Ambassador Langdale discussed reftel points with Foreign Minister Tovar on March 2, 2006. Tovar said that Costa Rica has not committed to supporting any candidate at this time. Tovar added that Costa Rica's vote will soon be courted, and said that the sooner the USG settles on a candidate, the easier it would be for Costa Rica to support that candidate.

2. Polcouns discussed the upcoming selection of a new UN Secretary General with Ambassador Jose Joaquin Chaverri,

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Director of Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on February 27. Chaverri indicated that Costa Rica understands the USG view that regional rotation is not enshrined in the UN Charter, but will be inclined to support an Asian candidate when it comes to selecting the next Secretary General. Foremost among the GOCR's reasons for

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adhering to the unwritten policy of regional rotation is the expectation that soon it will be Latin America's "turn," and any change to the system could jeopardize the region's chances of ever attaining the office. Chaverri added that a new government takes power in Costa Rica on May 8, and it is possible that GOCR views on the issue could change.

LANGDALE